

DESCRIPTION OF TRAILS

- 1. MODERATE — 2.25 miles. Circles upland woods and ravines along the eastern bluff of Laughery Valley. You'll see oak, hickory, maple, beech, tulip poplar, black walnut and other native trees. Look for limestone sink holes along the way. Trail can be accessed from below, from the Old Fire Tower Road or near Oak Grove Picnic area. Parents watch children at road crossings.
- 2. MODERATE — 2.275 miles. Makes a figure 8 along the hill of the southern edge of Fallen Timber Creek/ravine. It encircles Campground A and takes the visitor near CCC constructed Oak Grove Shelter where Trail 1 can be picked up. Encircling Campground A, access can be made near Oak Grove picnic area, behind Trailside Shelter, from several points in the campground, and from Fallen Timber bridge at the lake.
- 3. EASY 1.5 miles. Begins north of Fallen Timber bridge and goes east along Fallen Timber Creek. You will cross the creek 3 times before joining Trail 2. Make note of the numerous invertebrates that inhabit the creek bottom.

PLEASE STAY ON MARKED TRAILS!

HOOSIER HILLS BICYCLE ROUTE

The Hoosier Hills Route is about 27 miles long and runs from Liberty Park in Batesville through Osgood and Versailles to Versailles State Park. In Batesville, it connects with the Whitewater Valley Route, which continues northward for 66 miles to Whitewater Memorial State Park then on to Earlham College in Richmond.

It is important to note that this route is also used by motor vehicles. The bicyclist assumes the risk of his own safety when using this route.

For an overview of the entire Hoosier Bikeway System write to Outdoor Recreation, 402 W. Washington Street, Rm. W271, Indianapolis, IN 46204

Please let wild animals remain wild. Feeding deer is prohibited. Feeding of all wild animals can result in harm to both animals and people. Animals who depend on handouts become a nuisance to park visitors and a danger to themselves. Please lock up all food and coolers inside cars or campers.

ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

- BOAT RENTALS** — Boats may be rented by the hour or day. Privately owned boats may be launched on the lake at the boat ramp. Only electric trolling motors, powered by no more than two 12-volt batteries are allowed.
- CAMPING** — Campground is equipped with flush toilets, hot water and showers. Occupancy is limited to a maximum of two weeks. All sites will accommodate tents or trailers and have electricity and grills. Class "A" sites only.
- CAMP STORE** — Located in the Nature Center complex near the lake. Firewood may be purchased.
- CONCESSION** — Located at pool open on pool hours.
- FISHING** — In 230 acre Versailles Lake. Bass, bluegill, catfish, and other small game fish. State fishing license required, available at the park office.
- GROUP CAMP** — Camp Laughery can accommodate 120 persons. This complex includes sleeping cabins, kitchen with appliances, dining hall, shower house and recreation hall. Available April through October except the recreation hall which may be used all year. Write to the property manager for information, rates and reservations.
- HIKING** — More than 6 miles of hiking trails are available. Ratings for the trails are easy and moderate.
- INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST SERVICE** — Available 5 days a week from Memorial Day to the middle of August. Hikes, educational and interpretive programs and evening activities are offered by a seasonal naturalist. Schedules are available at the gatehouse, park office or at the nature center. Exhibits on park's natural and cultural history at the nature center.
- PICNIC AREAS** — Tables, grills, toilet facilities, playground equipment and playfields.
- SADDLE BARN** — Trailrides and hayrides are available at the saddlebarn. Bridle trails are available for those bringing their own horses. Trails are for day-use only.
- SHELTERS** — Reservable, inquire at park office.
- SWIMMING** — A 25 meter swimming pool with a 100 foot waterslide is available. A children's waterplay area has a wading pool and 'rainmaker', a bathhouse with lockers, showers and a concession area are part of the complex. Swimming prohibited in Versailles Lake.

THIS IS YOUR PARK

All visitors are expected to observe the following rules which are designed to fulfill the purpose for which state parks were established, namely, to preserve a primitive landscape in its natural condition for the use and enjoyment of the people.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- **All of the park is protected.** Do not feed any wild animal. Do not injure or damage any structure, rock, tree, flower, bird or wild animal within the Park. Do NOT gather limbs, brush or trees (either dead or alive) for firewood! It MUST be allowed to remain to rebuild the natural humus.
- Any firearm, BB gun, air gun, CO<sub>2</sub> gun, bow and arrow, or spear gun in possession in a state park must be unloaded or un-strung and stored in a case or locked in a vehicle.
- Dogs and cats must be kept on a leash no longer than six feet and attended at all times.
- There shall be no vending or advertising without permission of the Department of Natural Resources.
- Camping is permitted only in designated campgrounds. Youth group camping permitted in the Youth Tent Area only. No youth groups permitted in the Family Campground. Youth groups must be under adult supervision.
- Fires shall be built only in places provided.
- Please comply with the Carry In/Carry Out trash policy in all day use areas. Overnight guests must put waste in receptacles provided for that purpose.
- Motorists will observe speed limits as posted, and park in designated areas.
- Swimming is limited to the pool and only when lifeguards are on duty.
- Horseback riders shall ride on horse trails only. Horses are not permitted on hiking trails.
- The park is closed from 11 p.m. until 7 a.m. No one is allowed entrance into the park between those hours except fishermen and registered campers at their site.

For a complete list of rules and regulations inquire at park office.



Please carry out all trash you produce in order to keep your park clean and beautiful for others to enjoy!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Write: Versailles State Park  
Box 205, U.S. 50  
Versailles, Indiana 47042  
Call: (812) 689-6424

**DNR**  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
[www.IN.gov/dnr](http://www.IN.gov/dnr)

SPECIAL NOTE

Receipts from admission and service charges are used to help defray the operation and maintenance costs of the park. List of fees available in the park office.

The programs, services, facilities, and activities of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources are available to everyone. DNR prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information please write to: Department of Natural Resources, Executive Office, 402 W. Washington St., Rm. W256, Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 232-4020.

INDIANA

VERSAILLES STATE PARK



In August of 1934, during the bleak days of the Great Depression, the National Park Service announced plans to develop a federal park, the Versailles Recreation Demonstration Area, on 1700 acres of marginal Ripley County farmland. By fall the land was secured and the following January the first young men of the Civilian Conservation Corps arrived to begin work. The C.C.C. employed tree planting, landscaping, native stone masonry, and wood construction to create watershed and erosion controls, develop foot paths, and make many road improvements. President Franklin Roosevelt's "tree army" also joined W.P.A. artisans in building and shelter projects.

By 1943 the recreation area totaled 5310 (5813?) acres and on April 24 the National Park Service deeded the property to the State of Indiana. The "Versailles Project" became Versailles State Park, Indiana's second largest park. Today, the park includes 5905 acres.

Construction of Versailles Lake began in January 1954. Built as an area water supply and a recreational outlet, the 230 acre lake was opened to the public for boating, fishing, and swimming in June, 1958. The original sand beach was replaced in 1987 by an Olympic swimming pool complex.

Running directly through the park is Laughery Creek, named for Colonel Archibald Lochry, a Revolutionary War soldier. The Colonel lost his life in an 1781 Indian battle where Laughery Creek (Lochry) enters the Ohio River just south of Aurora, Indiana.

The rugged, cliff lined valley of Laughery Creek dominates park scenery. The stream has cut its way down through Silurian reef limestone well into underlying, fossil rich, 475 million year old Ordovician rock. Here the hiker will find abundant fossils including bryozoans, brachiopods, corals, and crinoids. Numerous sinkholes and associated springs point to an extensive underground drainage system and to the ease with which the lime rich rock dissolves in water. Throughout the park the southeastern Indiana hardwood forest provides expansive habitat for songbirds and wildlife.

Enjoy your visit to this rich, historical Indiana State Park!